

OF RELIGION

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman
Tomio Muto

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

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CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 197

November 15, 1961

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14TH YWCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 14th General Assembly of the Japan YWCA, which is held every third year, was convened at the Tokyo YWCA on Oct. 2-4. Miss Elizabeth Palmer, general secretary of the World YWCA on her way to New Delhi, was a special guest.

At the Assembly, Mrs. Tamaki Uemura (70) resigned from her position as president, a position which she has held for the past 24 years. Miss Teruko Komyo, professor at Tokyo Women's College and who has been serving as vice-president under Mrs. Uemura, was elected to be the new president. It was recommended that Mrs. Uemura be given the position of honorary president.

Miss Komyo (50) is a graduate of Tokyo Women's College and has studied at Mt. Aaron College in Canada, the Education Department of London University and also at Columbia University. She has also been on the Executive Committee of the World YWCA since 1955. Known for her proficiency in foreign languages, she has represented Japan at many international meetings.

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At the Assembly, Mrs. Tamaki Nomura (KO) resigned from her position as president, a position which she has held for the past 14 years. Miss Tetsuko Koyama, professor at Tokyo Women's College and who has been serving as vice-president under Mrs. Nomura, was elected to be the new president. It was recommended that Mrs. Nomura be given the position of honorary president.

Miss Koyama (KO) is a graduate of Tokyo Women's College and has studied at Mt. Allison College in Canada, the Education Department of London University and also at Columbia University. She has also been on the Executive Committee of the World YWCA since 1955. Known for her proficiency in foreign languages, she has represented Japan at many international meetings.

Misao Katsuyama from Tokyo and Sakako Hirooka from Osaka were elected to be vice-presidents. Mari Imai, head of the religious department of Shinonome High School in Matsuyama, was elected acting general secretary to take the place of Miyako Ishibashi who is to serve as a secretary of the World YWCA in Geneva. Mari Imai (48), an ordained minister, is a graduate of the Doshisha Theological Department.

At the Assembly it was also decided that the executive committee should continue its efforts to bring to a halt the nuclear tests by appealing to the YWCA in the United States to make efforts in this direction in the United States and by encouraging the Japanese government to make similar efforts through the United Nations.

DISTRIBUTION OF FREE BIBLES YIELDS GRATIFYING RESULTS

The Japan Home Bible League, a laymen's organization which presents Bibles without charge to those promising to read it, recently sent out a questionnaire to 1,000 people who received scriptures between October 1960 and June 1961.

The questionnaire included such questions as: How much of the Bible have you read? Are you attending church services? Have you received baptism? Are you considering baptism? Almost 250 replied to the questionnaire and among these slightly over 100 stated they had already been baptized or were seriously considering it.

Those who replied included students, workers, handicapped people and criminals. Some said they had read only a few lines, others said they had read the Bible here and there. One stated that he had read the entire Bible and was starting it for the second time.

Snigeru Takaishi of Kochi replied as follow: "I have almost finished reading the Bible and have been baptized. I am attending church here in Kochi. I feel that the words of the Bible are true words which strengthen my heart. No matter how troubled the times, as long as I have the Bible my heart is bright. I want to continue reading it forever."

Preciously a questionnaire was sent out to 3,000 recipients of Bibles with the similar result of about ten percent stating that they had been baptized. Since it began its activities in Japan eleven years ago with the backing of the World Home Bible League with headquarters in Chicago of the World Home Bible League has placed 271,000 Bibles in the hands of those stating they wished to read it.

NCC WELCOMES GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

At a welcome meeting given by the NCC at the Ginza Christian Center, for Dr. Adolf Wischmann, head of the Foreign Department of the German Evangelical Church and Dr. Constantin Von Dietze, former chairman of the German Evangelical Church, president of

Freiburg University and an authority on agricultural economics, Dr. Constantin Von Dietze made the following observations during an informal discussion following lunch.

He noted that East German students between the ages of 10 to 14 are required to write daily reports on their home life and that these are submitted to party headquarters. Churches are suffering in various ways but he regretted that little could be done to help them. He mentioned that the two Japanese pastors studying in Germany, Rev. Masahisa Suzuki and Rev. Yoshiaki Toeda, had visited East German Churches and that this visit greatly encouraged the Christians there. He also noted that although Barthian theology was quite popular in Japanese churches, in Germany those who learned toward Barth were between the ages 40 to 60.

BASIC POLICY PROMOTION COMMITTEE SET UP

To push for the early implementation of the basic policy of the mission of the Church as formulated at the recent Kyodan's Second Study Conference on the Basic Policy of the Mission of the Church, the Executive Committee set up a Basic Policy Promotion Committee made up mainly of members of the aforementioned study conference's Preparation Committee.

Specific recommendations have been sent to the various standing committees for development and implementation, but as the Kyodan is administered under a "Council system" it will be the task of the Promotion Committee to strive for an early realization of these recommendations which are based on the newly formulated basic policy. As each of the standing committees such as Finance, Evangelism, Education, General Affairs, etc., work under separate budgets and "policy", attention will be focussed on how these committees carry out the recommendations with the Promotion Committee acting as a liaison organ.

"ANGELS WITHOUT NATIONAL BOUNDRIES"

"Angels Without National Boundries" is a small 36 page booklet written by Keiji Takahashi, head of the Fukagawa Airin Gakuen. The author tells of his experiences in starting and continuing a small school for homeless children living in a slum district near Ochanomizu, Tokyo, known as the "Valley Settlement". Written from the heart, the stories touch us deeply.

Eleven years ago when he was still a poor seminary student, Takahashi visited the settlement trying to help the youngsters there were making a living by shining shoes and collecting junk. A young mother of the "valley" distressed by the teasing which her two children received at their public school donated two orange crates, a door and two straw mats to Takahashi to start a school for the youngsters.

In one of the many incidents included in the booklet, Takahashi tells about Yoshiho who became ill with tuberculosis, but when Takahashi arrived at a nearby university hospital with

Yoshiho on his back there was no medicine available for treatment. Thanks to a kind American soldier who heard of the case and contributed medicine Yoshiho was cured. Yoshiho later became a drug addict, but because Takahashi loved him as a brother Yoshiho was cured and is now a responsible citizen.

Mrs. Haruko Kagawa, wife of the late Toyohiko Kagawa, writes in the preface: "Through the works of Mr. Takahashi we can see that when the God of Love lives in our hearts all hate disappears and we are compelled to serve the poor and weak with compassion."

Mr. Takahashi says in his book that he writes "to witness that Biblical faith is a faith of life and power."

It will be translated and published in Germany next year.

TOKYO CHUSADE FILM COMPLETED

A film showing the Tokyo Crusade meetings in color has been completed and is available to the various cooperating groups and individuals.

On November 25 an evangelical meeting will be held at the Yomiuri Hall in Yurakucho, where the newly completed film will be shown, records of the Crusade music played and some of the new converts are to give their witness.

